Science laboratories in schools in rural areas

2173. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that essential science laboratories have not been set up in all the Government schools, functioning in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme and programme for setting up of such laboratories in those areas; and

(d) if so, the necessary steps taken by Government to implement the above scheme in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) As per 7th All India School Education Survey, conducted by NCERT, with reference date 30.9.2002, 65.12% of schools in the country having secondary stage in them, had science laboratories.

(c) and (d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territories to formulate programmes to improve the academic standard of schools, including setting up of science laboratories in schools. This Ministry had a scheme of Improvement of Science Education in Schools, under which financial assistance was given for upgradation of science laboratories in secondary and higher secondary schools. This scheme was transferred as a State Sector Scheme *w.e.f.* 1.4.2006.

Continuing Education Programme

†2174. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts where Continuing Education Programme has been launched so far, State-wise;

(b) the details of the amount of instalments sanctioned and released;

(c) the number of districts of Madhya Pradesh which have been given the first instalment under the said programme and when the number of districts to which the second instalment was given after one year; and

(d) the time period within which the amount of second instalment is provided after the release of first instalment, alongwith the criteria adopted for providing the second instalment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) A Statement showing, the State-wise number of districts covered under the Continuing Education Programme is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) District-wise and year-wise details of the amount sanctioned and the number of instalments released in respect of each district is at Annexure [See Appendix 211 Annexure No. 3].

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.